GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:384
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
MODERNISATION OF WEAPON SYSTEMS
JITENDRA PRASADA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government have taken to update our armed preparedness after Kargil Vijay Operation;

(b) whether modernisation of weapon system is proposed for all the three services of Defence forces;

(c) whether Government will expedite delivery of Searcher Mark II, UAV, ECM-2140 and battlefield surveillance radars for the Army; and

(d) if so, the stage at which the negotiations in this regard stand at present with countries willing to provide the desired Defence materials?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The Government has established a task and terrain specific Corps Hqrs for the Ladakh-Kargil region in January2000. This task and terrain specific Corps Hqrs is designed to secure the Indian side of the borders on a 'no gap' basis along the International Border, Line of Control, Line of ActualControl and the Actual Ground Position Lineby supplementing the force level already engaged in the borders under Hqrs 15 and 16 Corps. The strengthening of country's Defence is a continuous process. The requirements of our Armed Forces are reviewed on a continuing basis for induction of modernised weapons and weapon systems and keeping in view threat perceptions and the prevailing strategic security environment as also emerging technologies. The allocation for the Armed Forces for the year 2000-2001 has been considerably increased from Rs. 48,504 crores during the year 1999-2000 to Rs. 58,587 crores keeping in view the emerging needs of defence preparedness.

(c) & (d): Government has taken necessary steps to expedite procurement/acquisition and induction of battlefield surveillance radars and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for the Armed Forces. It is not in public interest to disclose further details in this regard.